Idaho Council on Children's Mental Health
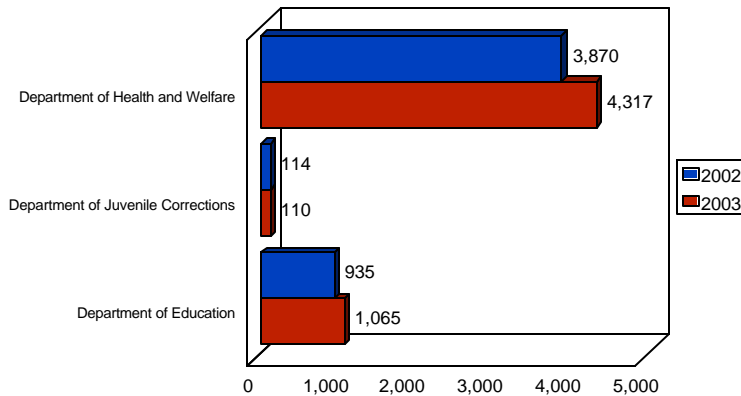## Legislative Update

Children Receiving Mental Health Services

Sources: Facts, Figures, Trends 2003-2004 and ICCMH 2003 Community Report. Note: Department of Education Data is from 2001-2002.

What is a System of Care?

A system of care is a parent-driven network of schools, advocacy organizations, public and private agencies working together to assure that the needs of families and children are met. Our system of care provides community-based services and supports for children with serious emotional disturbance (SED) and their families through our local children's mental health councils. Systems of Care are promising solutions for families affected by SED.[1]

Regional and Local Councils Serve Their Communities!

Seven regional councils provide administrative oversight and charters for local councils throughout Idaho. In just two years, the number of councils has grown significantly. Thirty-one local councils are operating, compared to seven in 2001. In 2002, local councils worked directly with **94** children and their families. In 2003, **110** additional children and their families were served. This reflects a seventeen percent increase. Reports from family members and local council members are very positive.

Seth's Story

It was time for Seth to leave the detention center, and a group home setting seemed like the only option for him. But thanks to the Kellogg Children's Mental Health Council, Seth is thriving at home and in his community.

The probation officer assigned to Seth referred him to the Kellogg Mental Health Council. After listening to Seth's mom, the council came up with a community-based solution: someone to provide in-home care for Seth, as well as therapy for the entire family. The cost for this community-based solution was approximately **$3,000** for three months, instead of **$16,500** for three months in a group home setting.

Seth has progressed beyond in-home treatment. He is enrolled in a public school, as opposed to an off-site, one-on-one setting. Relationships with his father, mother, and siblings have improved. Most importantly, Seth no longer is perceived as a threat to his family or his community.

[1] Simpson, J., Jivanee, P., Koroloff, N., et.al. (2001). Systems of Care: Promising Practices in Children's Mental Health, 2001 Series, Volume III
[2] Facts, Figures, Trends 2003-2004. Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

What is the Idaho Council on Children's Mental Health?

The Idaho Council on Children's Mental Health (ICCMH) is chaired by Lt. Governor Jim Risch and has appointed members from the Governor's office, collaborating child serving agencies, as well as parents, advocacy groups, a county commissioner, and representatives of the legislature, judicial branch, children's mental health service providers, and regional children's mental health councils.

The ICCMH develops and enforces formal agreements between collaborating child serving agencies and family support organizations (Departments of Health and Welfare, Juvenile Corrections, Education, and the Idaho Federation of Families).

In addition, the ICCMH has accepted the role of governance body for the federal cooperative agreement, "Building on Each Other's Strengths," in support of developing a system of care for children's mental health in Idaho.

The 2003 Community Report

The ICCMH published the second annual Community Report on children's mental health in December 2003. Not all children and their families served require all types of services and some may receive more than one service in several service categories. The following are excerpts:

Department of Health and Welfare

The Children's Mental Health Program served 4,317 children in 2003, compared to 3,870 in 2002[2].

Partial Listing of Services provided for Children

State Fiscal Year	2003	2002
Therapeutic Foster Care	93	42
Day Treatment	142	43
Family Supports	150	149
Residential Care	128	120
Medicaid Outpatient	11,444	10,141

Department of Juvenile Corrections (DJC)
DJC served 110 youth identified as SED in 2003, compared to 114 in 2002.

Department of Education
Education identified 1,065 children with an emotional disturbance (ED) in 2002, compared to 935 in 2001.

Partial Listing of Services provided for children with ED

School year	2002	2001
Psychosocial Rehabilitation	56	33
Positive Behavioral Supports	80	80

Jeff D. Lawsuit Enters 24th Year

Background: The Jeff D. Federal Class Action lawsuit against the State of Idaho originally was filed to protect children with SED who were placed in state hospitals. The lawsuit was expanded to include the State's lack of community-based services to keep children from having to be placed out of their homes.

A needs assessment of Idaho's children with SED and their families was conducted in 1999. As a result, 50 recommendations to develop a sustainable system of care for Idaho's children's mental health system were created. A federal judge has approved the 50 recommendations. The State and the Plaintiffs of the Jeff D. suit have collaborated to produce an implementation plan based on the recommendations. Idaho's children's mental health system is implementing the recommendations, which include developing the ICCMH and regional and local councils.

Legal Status: In the past two years, the State filed and argued an appeal to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals seeking dismissal of the case. The U.S. Supreme Court recently decided a similar case that will likely have implications in the Jeff D. lawsuit. The U.S. District Court has agreed to hold a compliance hearing to determine what terms have been met. The parties are awaiting direction from the District Court as to when and how the hearing will be held. Meanwhile, we continue our work on establishing the envisioned **System of Care.**

For more information on the ICCMH and the Community Report, visit:

http://www.idahochild.org